

Department of Emergency Management & Homeland Security
Training Committee
March 30, 2006 Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Jack Casner
Robert Kenny, Jr.
Robert Grega
Jeff Morrisette
John Field
Thomas Flaherty
Susan Rainville
Scott Selig
Michael Gilbertie
Adam Piskura
David Gofstein
Dan Warzoha
Paul Benyeda
Kristin Sullivan

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Jeff Morrisette at 2:06 p.m

Minutes from the October 27, 2005 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Chairman Morrisette reported that no meeting had been scheduled since October as it was his intent to schedule a meeting to introduce and hand-off a combined I-100/200/700 training program that was being developed by Paul Benyeda and his training staff. Mr. Benyeda reported on the number personnel trained as of November 30, 2005 by the various training partners. He stressed the primary focus has and continues to be NIMS compliance in support of the Governor's Executive Order and DEMHS goals. Statistics from EMI note the following number trained by course: I-100 (1290), I-200 (729), IS-700 (597) and I-800 (587). Mr. Benyeda also stated that he estimated that less than 50% of those who completed training were registered on CTTRAIN. Chair Morrisette also stated that the Connecticut Fire Academy and Regional Fire Schools were being inundated by requests for training. Well over 1,000 fire and emergency services personnel have been trained since January.

Michael Spera stated that DEMHS needs to establish clear guidelines regarding those communities that "self-certify" as being NIMS compliant. DEMHS is presenting awards to those that self-certify that they are 100% NIMS compliant. He inquired, what criteria is being used; is it that all personnel meet IS-700? A discussion on the self-certification of communities took place. **A MOTION was made by Michael Spera and SECONDED by Jack Casner to request the DEMHS Coordinating Council establish strict guidelines defining NIMS compliance. Motion carried.**

Moving on to agenda item 2 Paul Benyeda provided an overview regarding concerns with the delivery of training and meeting the minimum contact hours detailed in the various curricula. He referenced a Fact Sheet from DHS/FEMA on compliance. A discussion took place regarding this issue and the general feeling was that the fed's concern should be with competency, not contact hours. It appears that they are driving students to complete as much training on-line, although contact hours do not seem to be an issue with that. That said, it was felt that Mr. Benyeda should provide an update on this issue at the next Coordinating Council meeting.

Agenda item 3 was a review of the recent Train-the-Trainer programs completed at the Connecticut Fire Academy. The two day WMD T-t-T program was attended by 65 participants. The ICS 300/400 T-t-T programs were attended by 30 participants. It was generally felt we should have adequate resources within the state to satisfy training demand in these areas.

Agenda item 4, a review of DEMHS 06' State Homeland Security Grant proposal was reviewed as it related to training strategy. No significant change in strategy was noted and requested funding remained flat at \$501,000 for training and \$250,000 for exercising. The overall grant proposal was \$30 million, it was reported that the state will receive a minimum of \$7 million and the remaining \$23 million requested is awarded on a competitive basis.

Ms. Kristin Sullivan stressed previous discussions that training partners support Team Teaching (Cross Discipline). She also stated that DPH has a need for instructors from other disciplines to assist that departments training staff with deliveries. Mr. Bob Kenny also stated the need for entities to consider Team Teaching.

Scott Selig provided an overview of the Emergency Management 101 program for Health Care Employees. He indicated its delivery was working well even with the challenges the private Health Care sector faces with no fiscal support from the feds.

Chair Morrisette asked Kristin Sullivan for an update on CTTRAIN. She reported continued problems promoting this learning management system among the various disciplines. Paul Benyeda reported that while he receives training data from the feds he cannot share it with CTTRAIN. A batch feature is a possible option that should be explored. Chair Morrisette asked the committee to consider ways to promote CTTRAIN within their discipline.

Under open discussion, Chair Morrisette questioned the committee where it needed to go. What goals/objectives should be established for the upcoming fiscal year.

Mr. Scott Selig reported there was a need to evaluate how all the new and ongoing training is impacting drills and exercises. He indicated his group has had some success in doing this.

Ms. Susan Rainville stated a concern that many people who are active on the Training Committee are also on the NIMS Committee and that there is a lot of duplication of effort. **Following discussion, a MOTION was made by Susan Rainville and SECONDED by Dan Warzoha to recommend to DEMHS that they merge the two committees. Motion carried.**

Mr. David Gofstein reported that competency of municipal public works, as it relates to homeland security efforts varies dramatically statewide. He offered his support to ensure that community gets involved and offered contact information for their primary training organizations being UCONN-T2 and CIRMA.

Mr. Michael Gilbertie inquired about the status of the combined I-100/200 and 700 programs. Chair Morrisette reported that initiative was abandoned due to the contact hour concerns raised by the feds.

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for May 23, 2006 at Brainard Field. This is the date the NIMS Committee is meeting and may offer an opportunity to merge the two committees. A follow-up notice will be sent.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey J. Morrisette
State Fire Administrator
Chair-DEMHS Coordinating Council Training Committee